Demand for autonomy by Regional Political Parties

403. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether influenced by the autonomy resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, the other regional parties like AGP of Assam, Akali Dal and other parties have raised the demand for autonomy in their States; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction on such demands for autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) As per available information, subsequent to the 'Autonomy Resolution' passed by the J&K Assembly, the Shiromani Akali Dal (A) in the State of Punjab and the Asom Gana Parishad in Assam have expressed themselves in favour of more autonomy for States. These regional parties want that the Centre should confine itself to Defence, Communication, Currency and Foreign Affairs only and that all the other subjects should be transferred to the States.

(b) So far the Centre has not received any formal request for autonomy from these States. The Government of India had set up the Sarkaria Commission to go into the entire gamut of Centre-State relations. The Commission's recommendations are in the process of examination and implementation. The Commission had made 247 recommendations out of which the Inter State Council has taken a decision on 171 recommendations.

Demand for Additional Police Posts in Indo-Nepal Border Areas

404. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sent any proposal to the Centre regarding creation of additional police posts in Indo-Nepal border areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive proposal of the State Government of Bihar for effective management of Bihar-Nepal border has been received by the Government. This proposal, *inter-alia*, envisage establishment of new checkposts/police posts on the border, construction of buildings, purchase of vehicles and arms etc. for policing the border. Government is expected to take a decision on the proposal shortly.